

REMARKS

Claims 1-54 are pending in the application. The Examiner allows claims 29-54. The Examiner objects to claims 2-7, 15-21, and 22-28 for a variety of informalities. The Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 6, 15-18, and 22-25 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hughes (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,494). Applicants amend claims 2, 4, 5, 15, and 22. Claims 1-54 remain in the case. Applicants add no new matter and request reconsideration.

Claims Allowed

The Applicants thank Examiner Pizarro for his allowance of claims 29-54.

Claim Objections

Applicants amend claims 2, 4, 5, 15, and 22 to obviate the Examiner's objections.

Claim 15 recites *an event queue adapted to queue a plurality of event signals... and an event register adapted to read the event queue*. Claim 22 recites *an event queuing means adapted to queue the plurality of event signals... and an event registering means adapted to read the event queue*. The Examiner alleges that there is an improper antecedent basis that must be corrected by replacing "the" recited in the claims with "an". Valid antecedent basis, however, is provided for in the indicated portion of claims 15 and 22.

Claim Rejections Under § 102(e)

The Examiner rejects claims 1-2, 6, 15-18 and 22-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hughes. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites *a plurality of framer farms adapted to generate a corresponding plurality of event signals responsive to a corresponding plurality of signaling events*. The Examiner alleges that calendars 112 and 114 disclose the recited *plurality of framer farms*. Calendars 112 and 114, however, do not disclose the ability to generate a plurality of event signals responsive to a plurality of signaling events. Calendars 112 and 114 are tables in memory 104 of the transmit device 100 that contain fixed entries of desired service times that can be accessed by the transmission control unit 106 through pointers. Hughes, column 6, lines 30-35; Figures 1, 2 and 3. Since Hughes's Calendars 112 and 114 are tables with fixed entries, they are not adapted to

receive signaling events or generate corresponding event signals. Hughes, therefore, does not anticipate claim 1 and its corresponding dependent claims.

Claim 15 recites *an event manager* comprising of *an event queue adapted to queue a plurality of event signals, a status register adapted to maintain a status of each of the plurality of event signals, and an event register adapted to read the event queue*. Claim 22 recites similar limitations.

The Examiner alleges that Hughes's service queue 122 discloses the recited event queue. The service queue 122, however, is not adapted to queue event signals as recited. The service queue is adapted to queue fixed table entries from the "next connection" table 116, not event signals within the cells received over line 118. Hughes, column 8, lines 31-41; Figure 2.

The Examiner does not specify, nor can Applicants ascertain at the time of this writing, where Hughes discloses a status register adapted to maintain a status of each of the plurality of event signals or an event register adapted to read the event queue. Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to provide guidance. Since service queue 122 does not disclose the recited event queue, Hughes does not anticipate claims 15 or 22, and their corresponding dependent claims.

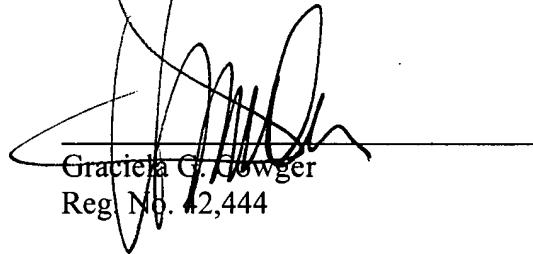
The Examiner further alleges that the transmission control unit 106 discloses the recited *event manager*. The transmission control unit 106, however, does not disclose the receiving of a plurality of event signals from a plurality of framer farms, as we discuss above in relation to claim 1, because Hughes does not disclose a plurality of framer farms. Hughes, therefore, does not anticipate claim 15, or claim 22 and their corresponding dependent claims.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants request allowance of all claims as amended. The Applicants encourage the Examiner to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

Respectfully submitted,

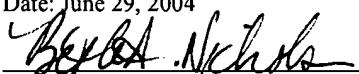
MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.



Graciela G. Cowger
Reg. No. 42,444

MARGER JOHNSON & McCOLLOM, P.C.
1030 SW Morrison Street
Portland, OR 97205
(503) 222-3613
Customer No. 20575

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
Date: June 29, 2004



Beth A. Nichols